

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter (*underlining*) and deleted subject matter (*strikethrough*), as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting original data from at least one file that resides on one or more different mediums operating on one or more different platforms, wherein the original data is extracted and stored at a target location without unnecessary replication of duplicate data, comprising the steps of:

obtaining content data and metadata relating to the original data of the at least one file, wherein the at least one file is stored in a first environment created ~~by~~ on the one or more different mediums operating in the one or more different platforms;

in a second environment created ~~by~~ on the one or more different mediums operating in the one or more different platforms and the target location, storing the content data and the metadata of the at least one file, wherein the content data is associated with the metadata, and wherein the second environment is different from the first environment;

obtaining ~~a~~ an original location corresponding to the at least one file, the original location indicative of where the at least one file is stored in the first environment;

in the second environment, storing the original location in a location table, wherein the location table includes the following:

a link to the content data, indexed in response to the original location indicative of where the at least one file was stored in the first environment; and

a link to the metadata, indexed in response to the original location where the file was stored in the first environment;

reconstituting at least a piece of the at least one file by accessing at least one of the following in the location table:

the link to the content data, in response to the original location; and

the link to the metadata, in response to the original location; and

storing the content data in a content hash table and the metadata in a metadata hash table, wherein the storing operation further comprises the steps of;

generating a digital signature from the content data; and

utilizing the digital signature to compare the content data of the least one file that is being extracted with content data already resident at the target location to avoid replication of content data and only storing content data that is not duplicative of the content data that is already resident at the target location.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the content data is stored in an entry of the content hash table, and wherein the metadata is stored in an entry of the metadata hash table.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of storing the content and metadata further comprises the steps of;

generating a digital signature from the metadata;

storing the content in an entry in the content hash table, wherein the content's digital signature is an index into the content hash table, so that the content's digital signature is the link to the content; and

storing the metadata in an entry in the metadata hash table, wherein the metadata's digital signature is an index into the metadata hash table, so that the metadata's digital signature is the link to the metadata.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein at least one or both of the digital signatures is generated using a hashing algorithm.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the hashing algorithm is the SHA1 secure hashing algorithm.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the entry in the content hash table comprises the content data and the link to the metadata.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the entry in the metadata hash table comprises the metadata and the link to the content data.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the location table is a location hash table, and wherein storing the location comprises the steps of:

generating a digital signature from the location; and

storing the original location in an entry in the location hash table, wherein the location's digital signature is an index into the location hash table, so that the location hash table is indexed in response to the original location by indexing with the location's digital signature.

10. (Currently Amended) A data processing system ~~utilizing~~ comprising at least one computer and one or more data sources that are either stand alone or networked, the data processing system for storing components of at least one file that was stored in a first environment at the one or more data sources, the data processing system utilizing code embodied within the data processing system for performing operations, the ~~the~~ data processing system comprising:

a content hash table in a second environment, wherein an entry in the content hash table includes: content of the file; and at least one link to metadata associated with the content, wherein a digital signature of the content is an index into the content hash table, and wherein the second environment is different from the first environment;

a metadata hash table in the second environment, wherein an entry in the metadata hash table includes:

metadata of the file; and

at least one link to content associated with the metadata, wherein a digital signature of the metadata is an index into the metadata hash table;

a location hash table in the second environment, wherein an entry in the location hash table includes:

a location where the file was stored in the first environment; ~~and~~
~~the following:~~

a link to content associated with the location in the first environment; and

a link to metadata associated with the location in the first environment;

wherein a digital signature of the location is an index into the location hash table, wherein the content's digital signature is the link to the content, and wherein the metadata's digital signature is the link to the metadata; and

reconstituting at least a piece of the file by accessing at least one of the following in the location hash table: the link to content associated with the location; and the link to metadata associated with the location.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 10, wherein an entry in the content hash table further includes at least one link to the location associated with the content, wherein the location's digital signature is the link to the location.

13. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein an entry in the metadata hash table further includes at least one link to the location associated with the metadata, wherein the location's digital signature is the link to the location.

14. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising a processor and a memory configured to utilize code for storing information related to at least one file, wherein the code is embodied within the data processing system, the code comprising instructions for performing operations including:

obtaining content and metadata of the file, wherein the file was stored in a first environment;

in a second environment, storing the content and the metadata, wherein the content is associated with the metadata, and wherein the second environment is different from the first environment;

obtaining a location where the file was stored in the first environment;

in the second environment, storing the location in a location table, wherein the location table includes the following:

a link to the content, indexed in response to the location in the first environment; and a link to the metadata, indexed in response to the location in the first environment; and

reconstituting at least a piece of the file by accessing at least one of the following in the location table:

the link to the content, in response to the location; and

the link to the metadata, in response to the location wherein the piece of the file does not contain duplicative content.

15. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the content is stored in a content hash table, and wherein the metadata is stored in a metadata hash table.

16. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the instructions for performing the operations of storing the content and metadata further comprises the instructions for performing the operations of:

generating a digital signature from the content;

generating a digital signature from the metadata;

storing the content in an entry in the content hash table, wherein the content's digital signature is an index into the content hash table, so that the content's digital signature is the link to the content; and

storing the metadata in an entry in the metadata hash table, wherein the metadata's digital signature is an index into the metadata hash table, so that the metadata's digital signature is the link to the metadata.

17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein at least one of the digital signatures is generated using a hashing algorithm.

18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the hashing algorithm is the SHA1 secure hashing algorithm.

19. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the entry in the content hash table comprises the content and the link to the metadata.

20. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the entry in the metadata hash table comprises the metadata and the link to the content.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the location table is a location hash table, and wherein the operation of storing the location further comprises instructions for performing the operations of :

generating a digital signature from the location; and

storing the location in an entry in the location hash table, wherein the location's digital signature is an index into the location hash table, so that the location hash table is indexed in response to the location by indexing with the location's digital signature.